



# Drought Information Statement for the Main Hawaiian Islands

Valid December 8, 2023

Issued By: WFO Honolulu, HI

Contact Information: [w-hfo.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:w-hfo.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated January 12, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/hfo/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





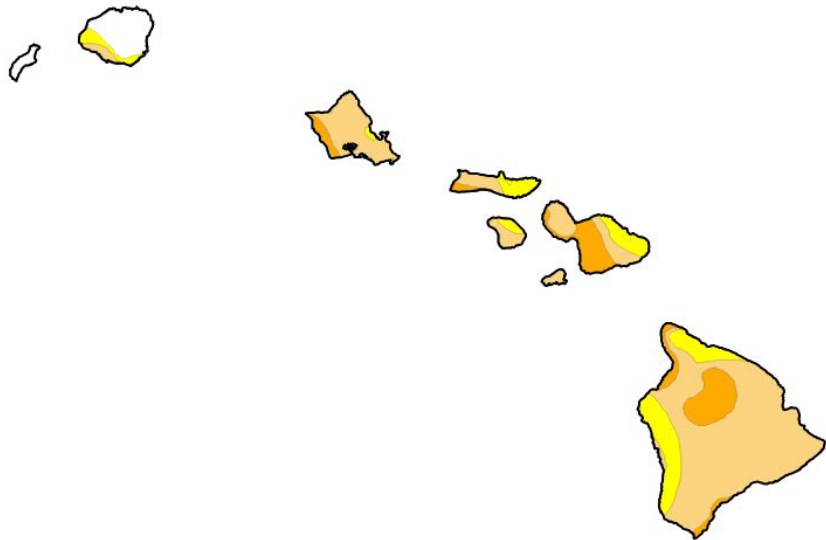


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the main Hawaiian Islands

- A kona low in late November helped ease drought conditions in the state.
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): Eliminated
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Covers leeward portions of O'ahu, Moloka'i, Maui, and the Big Island.
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Covers most of the remaining areas.
- More improvements may occur as vegetation regrowth continues in areas with sufficient rainfall.
- If follow-up rainfall does not occur, full drought recovery is not likely from just the kona low.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 12/05/23



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Honolulu, HI



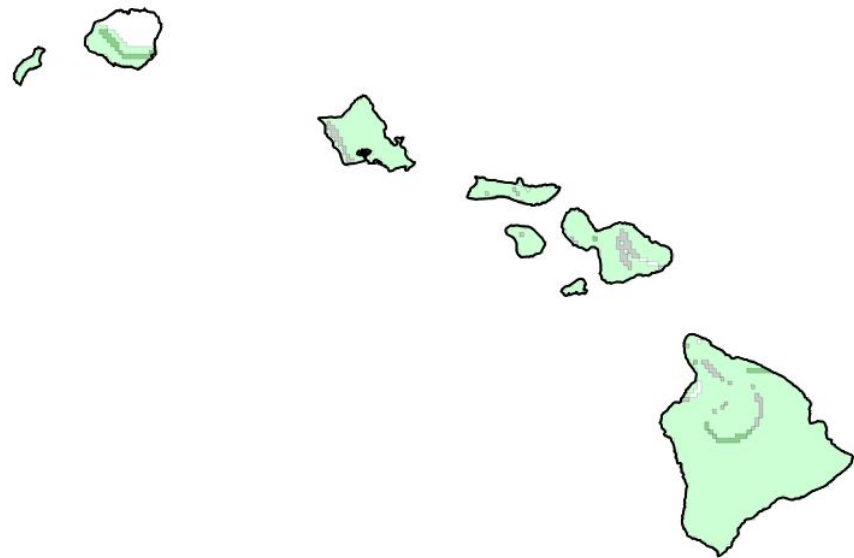


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

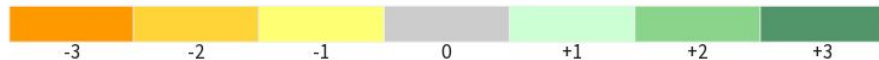
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for the main Hawaiian Islands

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Improved: Most areas of the state. North Kaua'i was already out of drought prior to this week.
- Four week Drought Monitor Class Change (link above).
  - Drought improvement statewide.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 12/05/23







- 
- Nov 2023**
- Inches**
- < 0.25
  - 0.25 - 0.49
  - 0.50 - 0.74
  - 0.75 - 0.99
  - 1.00 - 1.99
  - 2.00 - 2.99
  - 3.00 - 3.99
  - 4.00 - 4.99
  - 5.00 - 5.99
  - 6.00 - 6.99
  - 7.00 - 7.99
  - 8.00 - 8.99
  - 9.00 - 9.99
  - 10.00 - 11.99
  - 12.00 - 14.99
  - 15.00 - 19.99
  - 20.00 - 24.99
  - 25.00 - 29.99
  - 30.00+
- Rainfall data from the Hawaii Climate Data Portal (HCDP).  
The HCDP is supported by the National Science Foundation OIA #1557349 and Hawaii EPSCoR-RII Track 1: Ike Wai Securing Hawaii's Water Future
- Tuscaloosa Seamount  
Kalaheo  
Kauai  
Niihau  
Honolulu  
Kailua Channel  
Maui  
Kahului  
Kihei  
Hilo  
Kalaoa  
Houmaoa  
HAWAII  
Loihi Seamount  
Apuupuu Seamount  
Day Seamount  
McCull Seamount  
Jaggar Seamount  
Indianapolis Seamount  
Dutton Seamount  
Cross Seamount  
Swordfish Seamount  
Pensacola Seamount
- 986 m  
2200 m  
4907  
4977  
6046  
9091 m  
4230 m
- Esrri, CGIAR, USGS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA







# Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Agricultural Impacts

- Pasture conditions have improved across the state. However, follow-up rainfall is needed in the areas with the worst drought impacts, such as leeward Maui, and on the Big Island along the leeward slopes of Mauna Kea and the lower slopes of the Ka'ū District.

## Mitigation Actions

- Despite the recent improvement in drought conditions, state and county agencies are continuing mitigation and conservation outreach efforts in anticipation of the peak El Niño dry period (mid-December through February).
- The Maui County Department of Water Supply remains in a Stage 2 Water Shortage status for the Upcountry water service area on Maui. The declaration prohibits use of water for irrigation, watering lawns, washing vehicles, and other non-essential activities.







# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Most of the gages across the state indicated normal 14-day average flow levels.
- Maui had the most gages with flow deficits and shows that the November kona low mainly boosted flow on the east end of the island.
- The 28-day average flow levels had a similar number of sites in the normal range.

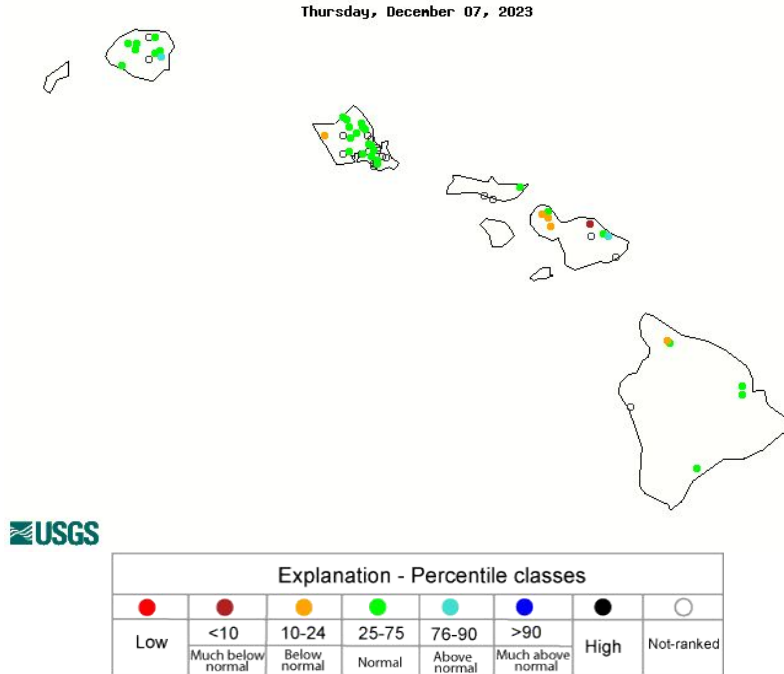


Image Caption: USGS 14 day average streamflow map valid December 6, 2023



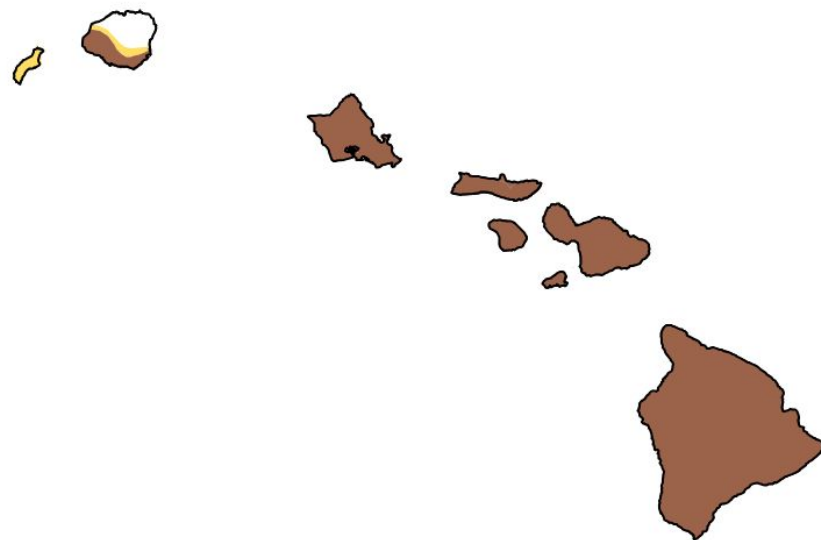


# Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The recent kona low provided short term relief from drought conditions.
- The ongoing El Niño will likely result in below normal precipitation across the main Hawaiian Islands well into 2024.
- Peak El Niño related dryness is expected from mid-December through February.
- Previous strong El Niño events have resulted in less than 50 percent of average rainfall during the October through April Hawaiian Islands wet season.

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



### Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 11/30/23

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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